

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed May 28, 2008, claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Nakamura (5,725,922). Claims 2-5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Nakamura in view of Cody (5,059,299).

By this paper, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 6 and to clarify the weight percent. Support for the amendment can be found on page 7, lines 18-21 of the specification. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of these amendments and the following comments.

The present invention is directed to a silicon rubber composition comprising a hydrocarbon extender oil in an amount of between 20 and 40 wt % based on the combined weight of the rubber and oil.

The Nakamura reference is directed to a semiconductive silicone rubber composition. As set forth in column 4, lines 34-39, a hydrocarbon oil is blended with an organopolysiloxane in an amount of about 0.1 to 20 parts, preferably about 3 to 7 parts by weight per 100 parts of the organopolysiloxane. Even at the highest concentration, the oil only comprises 16.7 wt % of the composition. The reference further teaches that more than 20 parts of oil would substantially detract from the physical properties of the silicone rubber. Thus, Nakamura teaches away from the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Nakamura does not anticipate amended claim 1 and applicant submits that claim 1 would not have been obvious over Nakamura in view of the teaching that higher concentrations of oil would have negative effects. Since all of the remaining claims depend from claim 1, applicant submits that they would not have been obvious for the same reasons.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims are now considered to be in condition for allowance and favorable consideration by the Examiner is requested.

Should the Examiner find any impediment to the allowance of the claims which could be corrected by telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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